

Allotments Committee Report



By Chairman, Councillor Carole Duckett

The Allotments Committee have met three times in the municipal year and I am happy to report that the meetings chaired by myself, have been very friendly meetings, with members of the Keynsham Allotment

Association and Town Councillors attending. Half-yearly reports from the Allotment Association are presented to the Committee and topics discussed have been, Polytunnels, Bonfires, siting of compost toilet, water supply and security.

I also attended the very well supported AGM of the Keynsham Allotment Association in February which was interesting and informative.

If required to do so, I will be more than happy to continue to chair future meetings of the Town Council's Allotment Committee.

Joint Arts Committee Report



By Chairman, Councillor Zoe Wilkins

The Joint Arts Committee meets quarterly and is made up of 6 Town Councillors, B&NES Councillors and B&NES Senior Arts Development Officer. The Committee's key tasks are to monitor the budget for the Keynsham Arts Development Activities and to monitor the progress of the Keynsham Arts Plan. The Committee receives reports from the successful Arts grants organisations and also reports from the Arts Advisory Group.

The pop-up Arts Space was held in Market Walk for the first time in December, organised by members of the Joint Arts Committee and was an excellent success with 60% of the attendees from the BS31 postcode area and there were many positive comments from visitors to the Arts Space. It is planned to have a mini Arts Space/Arts Trail the week of the Keynsham Music Festival in June/July 2016. The Town Council are currently working on other projects to bring colour and vibrancy to locations throughout the town.

Keynsham Winter Festival Committee Report



By Chairman, Councillor Lisa O'Brien

This year saw some changes to our Winter Festival arrangements. We wanted to make the event more 'family and community' friendly so with that in mind, the large fun fair previously taking over much of Ashton Way car park was replaced by attractions to appeal to the younger audience, based in the improved environment of the Civic Centre.

In order to include Temple Street more in the celebrations, we moved the performance stage to that area and also decorated the street with wall mounted Christmas trees – a feature which we hope to extend to the rest of the town centre next year.

The weather wasn't very kind on the night, but we were

delighted that more community groups than in previous years took stalls along the high street, including an animal arena which housed a particularly angelic donkey! It was especially pleasing that almost all retailers or businesses in the Town Centre either opened their doors for the evening or at least left their lights on to welcome visitors.

Local choirs and dancers entertained us on stage and in the street, and this year we also featured a full programme of entertainment in 'The Space', which was jammed pack all evening.

We hope to encourage more residents and visitors to take part in our Winter Festival and have plans afoot to make that happen. See you next year!

Grants Committee Report



By Chairman, Councillor Kate Simmons

Once again in 2015 the Town Council allocated £25,000 of its budget to grants for local groups that benefit Keynsham residents. The committee met in May 2015 to consider applications for a grant and recommended that grants be awarded to the following groups:

1st Keynsham Scout Group	1000.00
The 3-2-4 Playgroup	500.00
Age UK B&NES	500.00
Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham Branch)	5.00
Baby Comes Too	250.00
Baby Comes Too ARTS	250.00
B&NES Carers' Centre	500.00
Butterflies – Haven	500.00
Combe Down Holiday Trust	1000.00
Community @ 67 – Events	500.00
Community @ 67 – Community Radio ARTS	976.57
Focus Counselling	750.00
Fry Club Netball	1000.00
Golden Oldies Charity ARTS	706.88
J N Fear Hall	500.00
Keynsham Action Network Group	500.00
Keynsham Allotment Association	800.00
Keynsham & District Mencap Society	800.00
Keynsham Baptist Church & Tea 2 Tots ARTS	500.00
Keynsham Bowling Club	750.00
Keynsham Brass Band ARTS	1000.00
Keynsham Cricket Club	500.00
Keynsham Explorer Scout Unit	900.00
Keynsham Life Saving Club	1000.00
Keynsham Methodist Church	800.00
Keynsham Methodist Church	200.00
Keynsham Wombles	600.00
Keynsham & Salford Local History Society	500.00
Phoenix Keynsham Youth Theatre ARTS	1000.00
St Francis Church	1000.00
St. John's Church	1000.00
Swan Advice Service	1000.00
The Friends of Manor Road Woodland	950.00
Transition Keynsham (Food Group)	623.55
Walkers Are Welcome	473.53
The West of England MS Therapy Centre	500.00

A very successful Grants Presentation evening was held on 22nd July 2015 in the Community Space when organisations were presented with certificates and the grant award.



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Presented to the
Annual Town Meeting
at The Community Space,
Civic Centre, Market Walk
on Thursday 21st April 2016

Keynsham Town Council, established in 1991, is based at 15-17 Temple Street, Keynsham. Keynsham Town Council is the only official body solely representing Keynsham residents with a wide and diverse work load as outlined in the following reports.

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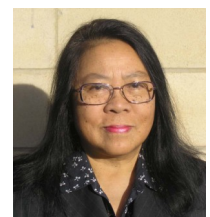
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SERVICES

The Town Council currently provides the following activities and services:

LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Children's Play Areas at:-

Upper Memorial Park
Park Road
Lower Memorial Park
Downfield
Kelston Road
Teviot Road
Holmoak Road
Manor Road

Basketball facilities at Teviot Road & Holmoak Road
Football Pitches & Pavilion at Manor Road
Multi Sports Facility & Skateboard Park at Memorial Park

CIVIC AMENITIES

Cemetery and Chapel at Durley Hill
Bus Shelters (some)
Roadside Seats/Litter Bins
Public Notice Boards
Maintenance of green footpaths within Keynsham town

ACTIVITIES

Grants for Voluntary & Community Organisations
Keynsham Winter Festival
Christmas Lights Display
Youth Service inc. TimeOut Youth Centre
Support to Keynsham Music Festival
Community Arts Development
Keynsham Farmers Market
Keynsham In Bloom/South West in Bloom
Keynsham Good Citizen Awards

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

There are also a certain amount of resources that have to be given over to running the Town Council including:

Democratic Services
Financial Management
Human Resources
Town Council Offices and Equipment
Information for Members and the Public

Keynsham Town Council liaise with B&NES Council on a regular basis on matters related to the Town.

COUNCIL STAFF

Acting Town Clerk—Dawn Drury
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Assistant Support Youth Worker—Kelly Low
Assistant Support Youth Worker—Amy Martin
Assistant Support Youth Worker—Ben Aldridge
Senior Groundsman—Nick Wilson
Groundsman (Cemetery)—Chris Champion
Groundsman—Csaba Biro
Apprentice Groundsman—Darian Burrows

Report by the Chairman of the Town Council

Councillor Lisa O'Brien



As we look forward to the warmer days of spring, it's good to reflect on changes to our town over the last year and some of the initiatives that the Town Council is taking forward.

With the Civic Centre completed, new Clock Tower in place and retail units almost all occupied, more residents are frequenting the restaurants, shops, library and community space for leisure and every day use. Temple Street has recovered some of its bounce and there are new retail outlets along the High Street. Keynsham is buzzing again, with music and other forms of culture increasingly prevalent. The pop-up Art Space project exhibiting local artists' work in December demonstrated clearly the thirst for art and crafts in our neighbourhood.

The Town Council has agreed an action plan, highlighting developments which we wish to progress or encourage others to accomplish. We intend to improve use of our own resources to promote social and leisure events in our town, work with community groups to extend communication links and cultivate improved environments for our residents. One way we are driving

this forward is through the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This project aims to establish what type of environment our community wants to have in the future. For instance, how should its economic development tie in with infrastructure needs? If you are interested in becoming part of this task force, please contact the Town Council office for more details. Your input will be very welcome.

Community groups that have already made a difference are the Keynsham in Bloom group which spearheaded the work to win a South West in Bloom 'Gold' award last summer. They have worked so hard around the area; in the town centre, bringing colourful planters to our pavements, at the railway station, and other spots such as Manor and Queens Road communities. Another award - 'The BANES Chairman's Community Award for Best Neighbourhood Team of the Year' - was justifiably awarded to the 'Keynsham Wombles' for the fantastic work they do through the year, clearing up and tidying our environment. Well done to both groups! The expansion of new homes will bring additional residents coming to live in our town. They will join a thriving, welcoming community!

Planning and Development Committee Report

By Chairman, Councillor Clive Fricker



The past year has seen a continuing stream of planning activity associated with development to the north, south and east of our town. A key priority has been the Committee's liaison with local residents including additional site visits to sensitive locations.

Following the completion of B&NES Core Strategy attention has moved to the combined authorities of the West of England. Due largely to national pressure on housing development the Committee is carefully monitoring the consultation about a Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Strategy both of which have vital implications for Keynsham. Safeguarding green belt and maintaining our town as distinct and separate community are two key policies fundamental to the Committee.

To further strengthen the town the Committee decided in Spring 2016 to launch a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Keynsham. This will strengthen our legal position with planning matters, help establish what Keynsham people really want and add community cohesion to an urban area experiencing exceptional growth.

Between the period April 2015 to the end of January 2016 the Planning & Development Committee has considered 103 applications. Six of these applications are still pending decision by B&NES Development Management Committee and 12 applications were withdrawn after the Committee made its decision. The Committee objected to 23 of 103 applications considered.

These objections were due to:-
Development in the Green belt 2
Site overdevelopment 18
Creating potential traffic & access problems 6
Out of keeping with the character of the area 11
Outside the building line 3
Highways 6
Effect on the conservation area 1
Loss of ecological habitats 2
No environmental impact assessment presented with the application 1
Lack of flood planning or flood mitigation plans 1
Amenity of neighbours light compromised 1
Overlooking issues 1
Loss of valuable retail space 1
86% of our decisions to support or oppose applications coincided with subsequent decisions to approve or refuse by B&NES Development Management Committee.

